

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 11 of 1897.]

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 13th March 1897.

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Nil.			
ASSAM PAPERS.			
Nil.			

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bangavasi " ...	Calcutta	20,000	6th March, 1897.	
2	" Basumati " ...	Ditto	.....	4th ditto.	
3	" Hitaishi " ...	Ditto	800	9th ditto.	
4	" Hitavadi " ...	Ditto	About 4,000	5th ditto.	
5	" Mihir-o-Sudhakar " ...	Ditto	1,250		
6	" Navayuga " ...	Ditto	290	6th ditto.	
7	" Sahachar " ...	Ditto	About 500	3rd ditto.	
8	" Samay " ...	Ditto	3,000	5th ditto.	
9	" Sanjivani " ...	Ditto	3,000	6th ditto.	
10	" Som Prakash " ...	Ditto	800	8th ditto.	
11	" Sulabh Samachar " ...	Ditto	.....	6th ditto.	
12	" Vikrampur " ...	Ditto	200	4th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	" Banga Vidya Prakashika "	Ditto	300	5th, 6th, and 8th to 11th March, 1897.	
2	" Dainik-o-Samachar Chandra- drika. "	Ditto	1,000	7th to 11th March, 1897.	
3	" Samvad Prabhakar " ...	Ditto	1,132		
4	" Samvad Purnachandrodaya "	Ditto	200		
5	" Sulabh Dainik " ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	6th, 8th, 10th, and 11th March, 1897.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bharat Mitra " ...	Calcutta	2,000	4th March, 1897.	
2	" Hindi Bangavasi " ...	Ditto	10,000	8th ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Hubbul Mateen " ...	Ditto	500	8th ditto.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide. "	Ditto	310	4th ditto.	
2	" General and Gauhariasfi " ...	Ditto	330	28th February, 1897.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Bankura Darpan " ...	Bankura	500		
2	" Ulubaria Darpan " ...	Ulubaria	550		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Burdwan Sanjivani " ...	Burdwan	250	2nd March, 1897.	
2	" Chinsura Vartavaha " ...	Chinsura	620	7th ditto.	
3	" Education Gazette " ...	Hooghly	1,280	5th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Presidency Division.</i>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Murshidabad Hitaishi " ...	Murshidabad	696	3rd ditto.	
2	" Murshidabad Pratinidhi " ...	Berhampore	300	.....
3	" Pratikar " ...	Ditto	603	5th ditto.	
					This paper is neither regularly published nor regularly issued.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	480		
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	About 600	20th February, 1897.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur	1,000	6th March, 1897.	
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	500	25th February, 1897.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400		
	BENGALI.	BHAGALPUR DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Gaur Varta" ...	Malda	.....	
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	243	3rd March, 1897.	
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur	180	.....
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling	700	1st March, 1897.	
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	315		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal	.....	26th February, 1897.	
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	1st March, 1897.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	2,400	7th ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur	.....	5th ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca	About 500	6th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	500	8th ditto.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla	900		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	120	5th ditto.	
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi" ...	Sylhet	.....	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	9

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Al Punch of the 25th February says that on the 9th February last, about four thousand Musalmans, at the end of their Prayers for the Sultan. Friday prayer, in the Aligarh *Juma Masjid*, offered up prayers for the safety of the Sultan of Turkey, invoking the Almighty to perpetuate the friendship between him and the British Government.

AL PUNCH,
Feb. 25th, 1897.

2. The *General and Gauhar-i-asfi* of the 28th February asks all Indian Subscriptions for helping the Sultan. Musalmans to subscribe to the fund which has been opened in the Nizam's dominion for helping the Sultan of Turkey in the crisis in which he has

GENERAL AND
GAUHAR-I-ASFI,
Feb. 28th, 1897.

been placed.

3. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 8th March has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 8th, 1897.

England's attitude towards the Sultan.

It is the height of foolishness to threaten six crores of Musalmans into submission, and the writer in the *Contemporary Review* has done the Indian Government great disservice by calling the Indian Musalmans "disloyal" and holding out a threat to them. If the Indian Musalmans have been annoyed and offended by the anti-Sultan agitation in England, it is not strong and offensive writing that will pacify them. Such writing is rather calculated to fan their discontent and create a difficulty for the Government. Wise people, even in England, have no sympathy with the anti-Sultan agitation and have expressed their disapproval of the conduct of the Radicals headed by Mr. Gladstone, who are waging an uncompromising wordy warfare against the Sultan. The Armenian problem would not have become insoluble had not the English agitators encouraged and incited the Sultan's Armenian and Greek subjects. The Sultan is not opposed to reform. But it is not reform but revolution that is wanted by the Radicals. They want to dethrone the Sultan and bring about the destruction of the Turkish Empire. The Sultan cannot, of course, like this, nor do the Indian Musalmans. Those who, like the writer in the *Contemporary Review*, call for the repression of the Indian Musalmans, have no idea of the fearful consequences which such a measure is likely to lead to. These men are England's greatest enemies, and it is they that ought to be repressed. Mr. Gladstone's anti-Musalmam feeling has now reached its climax. During the Russo-Turkish war Mr. Gladstone did not sympathise with Mr. Bright's anti-Sultan feeling. He was not a thorough-going Radical then. His rampant Radical principles have now made him an inveterate enemy of the Sultan, and he is being faithfully seconded by his Radical followers. England has beaten Russia hollow in anti-Sultan feeling, and even the Tory Ministry have not the courage to express their disapproval of it. This has caused anxiety in certain quarters, and the attitude of Englishmen of the class of the writer in the *Contemporary Review* has given us cause for apprehension. It is not threat but persuasion that is required to pacify the Indian Musalmans. The mouth can be gagged, but not the mind.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. The *Basumati* of the 4th March says that Mr. Kader Nath Rai, Sessions Judge of Pabna, having in a case under section 395 Police commenting on a Sessions against one Akbar Ali Mollah observed that "the conduct of the Sub-Inspector * * * in

BASUMATI,
Mar. 4th, 1897.

the investigation of this case, was very reprehensible and that severe notice should be taken of it," a copy of the remark was, according to the High Court's Circular Order, sent to the District Magistrate for information. The Magistrate again sent the copy to the District Superintendent of Police for information. But the District Superintendent, instead of taking the Sub-Inspector to task, said that "the Sub-Inspector should sue the Sessions Judge for defamation." Should not the High Court or the Lieutenant-Governor call for an explanation from the District Superintendent, especially when the High Court has distinctly said that "neither a Magistrate nor a District Superintendent of Police is at liberty to cavil at the judgment of the Sessions Judge, or enter into any discussion with the judge upon merit"?

HITAVADI,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

5. The *Hitavadi* of the 5th March draws the attention of the police and the Cantonment Magistrate of Dum-Dum, to Badmashes near Gorabazar, Dum-Dum. the conduct of the Ghosi Gowalas—a number of badmashes living near Gorabazar—who turn cattle loose on peoples' fields and gardens, and rob passengers on the Jessore-Calcutta Road. Last week these badmashes turned their cattle loose on the garden of one Parvati Babu, and the gardener having remonstrated, beat him severely with sticks.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

PRATIKAR,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

6. The *Pratikar* of the 5th March considers it great unkindness on the part of the Government to be realising the road-cess in the Murshidabad district, in a time of distress like the present, by the sale of poor lakhirajdars' goods and chattels. Remembering what oppressions are committed in realising the arrears of the cess, it is not proper for Government to insist on their realisation, when the zamindars are being advised not to press their raiyats for rent.

PRATIKAR.

7. The same paper complains that the exactions of the process-serving peons in the Murshidabad district have exceeded all bounds. They do not, now, in any case, accept less than a rupee as gratification for serving a summons or a subpoena, and they exact publicly and without fear. The peons also go so far as to exact gratification from even those on whom they serve subpoenas. Under the existing practice of proving service of summons, notices, subpoenas, &c., people have no alternative but to satisfy the peons.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

8. The *Hitavadi* of the 5th March writes as follows:—

The employment of Sub-Deputy Collectors by Mr. Westmacott. In the district of Jessore, nay, throughout the Presidency Division, Sub-Deputy Collectors are kept employed all the year round outside headquarters. Such is not, however, the case in other Divisions where field-work commences in November and lasts till May. There is no mufassal work for Sub-Deputy Collectors to do throughout the year, and yet the District Officers can not, for fear of Mr. Westmacott, employ their Sub-Deputy Collectors on judicial work. The result is that these Sub-Deputy Collectors have to sit idle during the greater part of the year, and have, from their *ennui*, to manufacture various occupations more or less useless in the mufassal. This is no imaginary statement that we make. The diaries kept by Sub-Deputy Collectors will prove this. Under these circumstances, it is sheer waste of money to keep Sub-Deputy Collectors in the Jessore district.

Mr. Westmacott himself wrote to the District Officer of Jessore:—"You must arrange for employing your Sub-Deputy Collectors continually in the field." The District Officer could not after this allow Sub-Deputy Collectors to return to the Sadar, and he passed an order for their perpetual banishment from head-quarters. Those officers have now, therefore, to move about in the mufassal, carrying khas mahal papers with them. Babu Rajanikanta Mukherji, a Sub-Deputy Collector in the Jessore district, having asked for instructions as to how he was to carry about those papers with him if he was not granted a peon, the District Officer replied that the Sub-Deputy Collector should carry them with his own things. While the Divisional Commissioner and the District Officers are so anxious to save a peon's pay, they take no notice of the waste of money which is caused by Sub-Deputy Collectors sitting idle for nine months in the year.

We learn from Mr. Westmacott's Administration reports that Sub-Deputy Collectors in his Division are employed on the following works:—

- (1) Survey operations in the khas mahals.
- (2) Collection of rent in the khas mahals.
- (3) Making enquiries about revenue matters.

As for the first of these works, it can be far better performed by Surveyors than by Sub-Deputy Collectors, who get no training in survey work before their appointment, and who are not required to undergo a test in that subject in the examination, on the results of which they are appointed

The Board of Revenue has therefore ruled that survey operations should be conducted by kanungos. Why is then Mr. Westmacott so anxious to employ Sub-Deputy Collectors on survey work?

The work of collecting rent in the khas mahals consists in going from house to house, writing out receipts, keeping three registers and one pass-book and sending the money realised to the treasury with a triplicate *challan*. All this, to be sure, could be satisfactorily performed by an officer on small pay.

Again, the annual rental of the khas mahals in the Sadar subdivision of the Jessoro district does not exceed Rs. 700. The cost of realising this rent should not, at the ordinary rate, exceed Rs. 140. But by having that rent realised by a Sub-Deputy Collector, Government incurs an annual expenditure of Rs. 350, that is to say, half of the annual rental, as will appear from the following details:—

	Rs.
The Sub-Deputy Collector's pay for two months at Rs. 150	
per month 300	
His travelling allowance 38	
A peon's pay for two months at Rs. 6 per month 12	
Total ... 350	

As for the third work, namely, enquiries about the means of recovering arrears of road cess, and about failures to register names as owners, that too could be safely entrusted to lower officers. At present when an arrear of road cess cannot be realised, even after the issue of a certificate, the peon states by way of explanation, that the defaulter is not to be found, and the nazir reports that the mahal, in respect of which the defaulter is adjudged to have made default, could not be sold, as it appeared from mufassal enquiry, that it did not belong to him. A Sub-Deputy Collector can do little more in such cases.

As notices relating to registration of names as owners are seldom sent to the record department, registration records are very defective, and the enquiries based on those records, which take place every 10 or 12 years, prove for the most part so much labour lost.

In other Divisions the above works are satisfactorily performed by kanungos, and they could be safely entrusted to still lower officers. In other Divisions Sub-Deputy Collectors are employed on judicial work at headquarters, and have but seldom to go into the mufassal. Can Mr. Westmacott say that he has ever employed Sub-Deputy Collectors in his Division on judicial work?

Mr. Westmacott is flying directly in the face of the Board of Revenue by employing Sub-Deputy Collectors on the above works. Will the Board take no notice of his action?

9. The same paper refers to the confirmation by the Allahabad High Court of the capital sentence passed by the Sessions Judge of Bareilly upon six persons for the murder of one Hamid Hossein, and remarks as follows:—

The Hon'ble Judges have certainly confirmed the sentence on sufficient evidence, but we cannot say how far the public will be pleased with such a decision. We do not believe that in any civilised country six persons can be hanged for the murder of a single man, and when the law provides for the alternative punishment of transportation, would it not have been better to pass a sentence of transportation, than hang six persons at the gallows?

10. The *Sanjivani* of the 6th March complains of the conduct of Mr. Douglas, District Judge of Dacca. During the trial of the prisoners charged with the murder of Mr. Pogose, the pleader for the defence tried to

prove that the Police Inspector's statements were not true. Upon this Mr. Douglas clenched his fists, and said in an angry voice that if anybody had ventured to question the truth of his statement in this way he would have broken his pate. This is not the first time that Mr. Douglas has made uncivil remarks in Court. Every one remembers how uncourteously he once spoke of Mr. Justice Chandra Madhab Ghosh. He has become notorious for his uncivil treatment of the women, who have to come to his Court. Mr. Douglas should no longer be

HITAVADI,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

allowed to disgrace the judicial bench, and should be transferred to the Post Office or the Revenue Department.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 6th, 1897.

Proposal relating to the retirement of the members of the Subordinate Judicial Service.

11. The same paper understands that the Bengal Government has proposed to compel the members of the Subordinate Judicial Service to serve for a few years more, even after they have passed 55 years. The proposal is an inadvisable one. Munsifs and Subordinate Judges

are the most hard-worked of public servants. They generally become unfit for active service after they have attained 55 years, and they should be allowed to enjoy their well-earned pensions. The Calcutta High Court, however, has protested against the Bengal Government's proposal on the ground that it will weaken the Judicial Service by entrusting the administration of justice to superannuated men. It is to be hoped that the Government of India will support the Calcutta High Court's view and reject the Bengal Government's proposal.

(d)—Education.

BASUMATI,
Mar. 4th, 1897.

The stipends of *gurus* in Ulubaria.

12. The *Basumati* of the 4th March has been pained and ashamed to hear that the Ulubaria Local Board in the Howrah district has not yet paid the stipends of the *gurus* of pathsalas due for the last year. This is very reprehensible conduct on the part of the Board, especially when scarcity is prevailing in the country and it is certain that the *gurus* can collect little from their pupils.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

Natural Science in the Middle English and Middle Vernacular examinations in Assam.

13. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 5th March says that there is no Text-Book Committee in Assam, and text-books there are selected by the Director of Public Instruction. But the Director sometimes makes very injudicious selections of text-books. He has lately introduced natural science into the curriculum for the Middle English and the Middle Vernacular examination, the text-book appointed for the former examination being Huxley's *Introductory*, a book, that is, which has been for many years a text-book for the Entrance examination. To crown the whole, the new rule will come into force from this year. The addition of zamindari and mental arithmetic to the subjects for the middle vernacular examination has already proved a grievous burden to the candidates, and yet another burden has now been laid on them. Is not the Director aware that the candidates for the middle English examination have to read a larger variety of subjects than those for the Entrance examination?

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHAN,
Mar. 7th, 1897.

14. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 7th March says that the Chinsura people have resolved to send a petition to the Director of Public Instruction protesting against the proposed removal of the Normal School from Hooghly.

Chinsura to Hooghly. The Normal School is doing good to the Chinsura people, and it should not be removed.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Mar. 7th, 1897.

15. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 7th March complains of irregularities in the last first and second Sanskrit examinations in Dacca. The papers on Smriti (Hindu Law) and Nyaya (Hindu Logic) having been printed in the

Devanagari character, the examinees could not read them. These papers had, therefore, to be written out in the Bengali character. This caused the examinees delay and inconvenience, and they could not properly answer the questions set to them. On the second day the same paper was set to the examinees in Sankhya, Smriti, Nyaya, Sahitya, Kavya and Vyakaran. All the questions were on Sahitya and Vyakaran, and there was, virtually speaking, no examination in Sankhya, Nyaya, &c.

DACCA PRAKASH

16. The same paper is glad that Dr. Martin has been confirmed in the office of Director of Public Instruction, Bengal. Dr. Martin as Director of Public Instruction. No one else has Dr. Martin's experience as an Inspector. The writer was sorry when the *Sanjivani* and other papers said that another man was going to be appointed Director.

17. The *Som Prakash* of the 8th March heartily approves of Dr. Martin's scheme of school-boy subscriptions in aid of famine relief. The small rates fixed by the Director will enable boys to pay out of their

Dr. Martin's appeal to school-boy charity.

pocket-money, which they often spend on trifles. It will do boys great good to be thus helping famishing people. Dr. Martin's scheme bears the stamp of a noble mind.

SOM PRAKASH,
Mar. 8th, 1897.

(e)—*Local-Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

18. The *Charu Mihir* of the 1st March says that a *chur* being in course of formation near the west bank of the

An inconvenient ferry ghāt in Mymensingh town.

Brahmaputra river in Mymensingh town, the ferry-boat finds itself unable to reach the ghāt, and passengers have to get into or alight from the boat at some distance from the bank, and there is very great difficulty in ferrying over horses or carriages. The District Board should have, ere this, constructed a *kutcha* road across the

the *chur* to the edge of the water.

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 1st, 1897.

19. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 3rd March contradicts the statement made in the last issue of that paper, to the effect that the Berhampore Municipality intended demolishing the Hindu

The Hindu temple in the Ber-

hampore Municipality.

temple on Strand Road in Berhampore town, if it was not repaired by its owner

within the time specified in the notice (R. N. P. for 6th March, paragraph 29.)

As a matter of fact, the Vice-Chairman intends to repair the temple at the

public cost, instead of demolishing it, if no owner is forthcoming to comply

with the Municipal requisition.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Mar. 3rd, 1897.

20. The *Sanjivani* of the 6th March complains of acute water-scarcity in Kushtia in the Nadia district. So keenly is the

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 6th, 1897.

Water-scarcity in Kushtia.

scarcity of water felt that people are going away to

other villages.

21. A correspondent of the same paper complains of mismanagement in the Kumarkhali Municipality. During the administration of the present Municipal Board the state of

State of the Kumarkhali Muni-

cipality.

things has become worse than before. Roads are out of repair. It was rumoured that the Municipality would construct a Strand Road. No such road was constructed, but the preparations for construction cost the rate-payers Rs. 500. The Municipal tank, Krishnasagar, was re-excavated during the rains at a cost of Rs. 400. The rains filled the tank before its re-excavation was finished. The tank is now in a foul condition. The Municipality has purchased a piece of land for the purpose of digging a tank there, which it is turning into a stinking mire by allowing people to cut away earth from it on payment of a small fee to the Municipality. The Board has spent a large sum of money on fruitless and uncalled for litigation, and has badly mutilated roadside trees. The hospital assistant of the Municipal charitable dispensary has been dismissed after a service of 14 or 15 years.

SANJIVANI

22. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 8th March says that though the Calcutta Municipality has sanctioned the expenditure of

The Rs. 30,000 for the cleaning of Calcutta.

SULABH DAINIK,
Mar. 8th, 1897.

Rs. 30,000 for the cleaning of the town, most part of the money seems to be spent in the European quarter, and no attention whatever is being paid to the native quarter. The larger streets in the native quarter have, it is true, assumed a neater appearance than before, but the lanes and open drains in that quarter are as dirty and full of filth as ever. The noxious smell issuing from these drains can be easily killed by sprinkling over them lime powder, or, if that is found too costly, phenyle. But this is not done. In the European quarter, coolies are present throughout the day to remove horse-dung from the streets, but in the native quarter, the streets are swept only once in the morning, and that in a most perfunctory manner, because there are, apparently, none to superintend the work done by the sweepers. The Rs. 30,000 which has been sanctioned should, therefore, be raised entirely from among the European rate-payers.

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 1st, 1897.

CHARU MIHIR.

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 3rd, 1897.

BASUMATI,
Mar. 4th, 1897.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 6th, 1897.

GENERAL AND
GAUHAR-I-ASFI,
Feb. 28th, 1897.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

23. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 1st March says that the absence of a direct water route between Shola-kura and Elenga, *via* Sakrail, Ichhapur, Syampur and Pathailkandi, within the jurisdiction of the Kalihati thana in the Mymensingh district, causes serious inconvenience to the residents of several villages. A canal navigable in the rainy season for large boats can be excavated at a small cost and will be a great boon to the villagers. It is hoped that the District Board will consider the question.

24. A correspondent of the same paper draws the attention of the authorities to the rickety condition of the bamboo bridge over the Lakhmia khal, a little to the west of the thirty-second mile of the road, in the Netrakona

subdivision of the Mymensingh district, which runs from Netrakona, *via* Narayandahar, and joins the Durgapur road near Ilispur. In crossing the bridge in vehicles people run no small risk of losing their lives. The bridge can be converted into one of wood or of iron pipes at a small cost, if only the District Board gives the Local Board the necessary sanction.

25. The *Sahachar* of the 3rd March says that, on the 26th February last, a police constable fell beneath a railway train at the Madhupur station on the East Indian Railway and lost his life, in consequence of the train having

been suddenly moved backward after being brought to a stand-still. This is done every day with the down-train which arrives at Madhupur about midnight. The accident, which cost the poor constable his life, may, therefore, befall any other passenger any day. The railway authorities should take steps to prevent such accidents in future.

26. The *Basumati* of the 4th March says that the present Assistant Traffic Superintendent of the Bengal Central Railway, who is the chief authority in that Railway Administration, is not treating his subordinates with anything like fairness.

(1) Babu Haridas Basu had served with credit for twelve years under the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration and was the Station Master of the Jhinkergacha station, when, on the transfer of the central section to Messrs. Rothschild and Company, he was suddenly dismissed for no fault. Hari Babu used to get Rs. 40 a month, but one Chhatu Lal Majumdar was appointed in his place on Rs. 25 only.

(2) The European Station-master of Khulna, who used to draw Rs. 200 a month, has been replaced by a native station-master on Rs. 35 only. Why should a native, who does all the duties of a European, get such poor pay?

(3) Jessor is a less important station than Khulna, but the Station-master of Jessor gets Rs. 45 a month, while that of Khulna gets only Rs. 35.

(4) Babu Hari Nath Datta, an old and experienced station-master, was removed from the Dattapuker station, apparently for no fault. Babu Hari Nath's merit has secured him an appointment under the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration.

27. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 6th March complains of an insanitary latrine in the Poradah station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The latrine is foul and stinking and is a standing menace to the health of the railway passengers.

(h)—*General.*

28. The *General and Gauhar-i-asfi* of the 28th February is sorry to notice that Government has, at last, taken direct measures forbidding pilgrimage to Mecca, by issuing quarantine rules on the plea of arresting the spread of the

plague. Government, at first, tried to dissuade intending pilgrims, by telling them that the routes to it were infested with robbers and murderers; but finding that that produced no effect in the minds of the devoted Musalmans, it has now issued orders directly forbidding pilgrimage.

29. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 2nd March complains that the existing arrangements for the inspection of railway passengers at Khana junction are far from satisfactory.

Plague inspection and hospital accommodation at Khana Junc. Women are examined on the platform and their

privacy is thus trespassed upon. They should be inspected within the compartments and not on the platform. The number of female passengers is not very large, and there need be no difficulty in making proper arrangements for their examination in private.

The plague hospital at Khana junction is a very miserable structure. Its sanitary condition is bad. Improvements should be made in it, as well as in the hospital arrangements.

30. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 3rd March has the following:—

The hill exodus. The press has all along protested against the waste of public money on the hill migrations of the Supreme and Local Governments. But the abuse has gone on from year to year, because the rules which guide the actions of absolute rulers do not change. The hill exodus is prompted solely by considerations of self-interest, and is justified neither by reason nor by necessity. The high officials, not content with fattening on big salaries and enjoying comfort at the people's expense, are munching, as it were, the people's very bones and marrow in order to draw therefrom their exchange compensation allowance. They feel no pity or sympathy for the Indian people. Nor are they ashamed to propose a hill exodus, even in a year like this. The *Statesman* is to be thanked for directing its powerful pen against the inhuman conduct of Government, and it is hoped that the whole press will join that paper in the protest. If it is true that the European officials are paid big salaries in consideration of the hardships they have to bear in a hot country like India, what explanation can they give of their annual hot-weather migration to the hills? India's ill-luck has placed her for the present under England's rule, and she suffers without a grumble all the oppression and despotism which are committed upon her by the European officials. But you English, who are respected and worshipped throughout the world as the bravest, richest and most resourceful of peoples, is it manliness in you to treat the Indian people in this manner? Your subjects are dying by thousands of starvation, the whole country is on the road to ruin in consequence of a most widespread famine, charitable people all over the world are crying *fire* on your administration and are sending food and money to help your starving subjects, and you who have been deputed by your Sovereign to rule those subjects, are making preparations for a costly hill exodus in order to enjoy yourselves! Does it not once occur to you that by foregoing for only a year the luxury of the migration, you can save from the jaws of death thousands of your starving subjects?

31. The *Darussultanat and Urdu Guide* of the 4th March says that the issue of a notice, in the first instance, telling intending

Government and the Mecca pilgrimage.

Indian pilgrims to Mecca that owing to the unsafe condition of Arabia, a journey to the Hedjaz had

better not be undertaken this year was a ludicrous and hateful expedient resorted to by Government for checking this year's Hedjaz pilgrimage. Letters recently received from Mecca state that pilgrim caravans are safely arriving at Mecca without meeting with any danger on the way. The notice cast an unjust and cowardly slur on the Turkish administration of Arabia. If Government had any political motive in checking the pilgrimage, the outbreak of plague in Bombay was sufficient to lend it an excuse. Nay, the Government had power to forcibly prevent its subjects, instead of resorting to an expedient like the one stated above.

32. The *Hitavadi* of the 5th March says that great mischief is being

The plague policy of Govern- ment.

done by the Epidemic Diseases Act as was feared by it. Hindus and Musalmans will never allow

their women to be taken to hospitals. As a matter of fact, affrays with the police have become of frequent occurrence at Poona. Many people will also be deterred by the rigour of the law from calling in a doctor when a female relative is attacked with plague, as a medical man is bound, under the Act, to report every case of plague that comes to his

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,

Mar. 2nd, 1897.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,

Mar. 3rd, 1897.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,

Mar. 4th, 1897.

HITAVADI,

Mar. 5th, 1897.

knowledge. The plague will thus spread instead of being checked. Taking these things into consideration, Government should yet amend the Act.

33. The same paper writes as follows:—

When a Bombay Missionary declared the famine now raging in the country as "a visitation from Heaven for the purpose of converting the heathens" he, no doubt, frankly gave expression to his own real sentiments as well as to those of many of his evangelical brethren. It is not at all fair to convert to an alien faith helpless orphans who are too young to form any judgment about religious matters, and yet Government is helping Christian Missionaries to convert such helpless orphans to Christianity. Waifs and strays found by the police are, for the most part, made over by Government to Christian Missionaries.

In this city of Calcutta how many helpless orphans are sacrificing their religion in the Eden, Campbell and Medical College Hospitals! While Missionaries are freely allowed to take charge of Hindu or Musalman orphans, a Hindu or a Musalman cannot, without great difficulty, obtain the custody of a helpless orphan of his own religious persuasion.

In famine-stricken localities you will find bands of Christian Missionaries roaming with the Bible in one hand and rice in the other. When you are suffering all the excruciating pangs of hunger and are on the point of death from starvation, a Missionary comes to you and says "sacrifice your religion and embrace Christianity and you will have this rice." You, poor soul, are then almost mad in your hunger and you sacrifice your religion to save your life. But do such conversions redound to the credit of the Missionaries?

The instructions of the Famine Commission about the treatment of helpless Hindu and Musalman orphans are as follows:—

"In all great famines large numbers of orphaned or deserted children have been left in the hands of Government. Till lately the practice has been to make them over to orphanages established by Missionary Societies, in which the children are brought up as Christians. Objections have of late years been urged to this practice; and an alternative plan has been followed of making them over to Hindus or Muhammadans who have applied to receive charge of them. We conceive that, as matters now stand, both these systems must be adopted; but the latter one should have the preference, as far as it is possible to carry it out. The State should not take advantage of the helpless position of such orphans to encourage proselytism, but it is bound to make due provision for their moral and physical welfare. Supposing there are rival applicants for the care of a Hindu or Muhammadan child, the person most entitled to receive the child would be a co-religionist. * * * *

Muhammadan families, among whom there is no question of caste, will generally be found ready to receive Muhammadan children; but for low-caste Hindu children, suitable applicants will rarely come forward, and such children will generally remain on the hands of the State. Efforts should be made to induce respectable and charitable persons to adopt the orphan children in preference to any other course; but when these have been exhausted, the children may properly be entrusted to any well-conducted orphanage under due supervision and with the proviso that they should always be reclaimable by their parents, or by near relations who may have a right to demand the care of them."

Will anybody tell us why Government is acting against these instructions? An interpellation should be made on the subject in Parliament. This conduct of Government is creating dissatisfaction in the public mind.

34. The *Sanjivani* of the 6th March complains of inconveniences in connection with plague inspection at Khana Junction.

Plague inspection at Khana Junction. The platform is low and this causes female passengers great inconvenience in alighting from the train. There are female inspectors to examine female passengers, but police constables are still allowed to make female passengers come down from the train. The examination of female passengers, moreover, is carried on on the platform. This is objectionable. The female inspectors should be instructed to examine female passengers in the compartments occupied by them.

35. The *Bangavasi* of the 6th March has the following :—

The *Statesman* on the Simla exodus. The *Statesman* has written a fiery article against the Viceroy's Simla exodus. The writing is palatable, but its consequences are not likely to

be quite agreeable. Ridicule and abuse directed against the Viceroy and other chief officials are, no doubt, palatable to the public, but they are sure to bring about sad consequences. The *Statesman's* writings have caused us no little anxiety and apprehension. The vernacular newspapers take the English newspapers as their guide and standard, and they closely imitate and faithfully follow them. Journalism is a feature of European civilisation, and it has come to this country in the wake of that civilisation. It will certainly go hard against the vernacular press, if it catches the contagion of the *Statesman's* fiery tone and imitates its strong and impassioned writing. The editor of the *Statesman* is an Englishman. He can safely indulge in strong writing; he can even take up arms with impunity. But woe to the vernacular paper who will dare to follow his example! It is, however, unquestionable that vernacular papers make the English papers their guide and standard. And it is natural for the disciple to follow the example of the preceptor. The Government should, therefore, either bring the preceptor to book, or allow the disciple to faithfully imitate his *guru* without let or hindrance.

We do not understand why the *Statesman* should, all of a sudden, assume a warlike attitude towards the Government. Has anything unusual or critical taken place? Has anything unexpected turned up? The current of affairs flows unobstructed; the surface of events is unruffled. Has the *Statesman* unearthed a conspiracy against the Government? Or has it discovered danger for the State? There is no cloud in the political horizon. The army is not disaffected. The Viceroy is as calm, resolute and dignified as ever. The wind blows fair and cool. Why then this fiery and impassioned writing—this warlike attitude of the *Statesman*? Surely the Simla exodus is not a new thing! It is a yearly occurrence. Why should it be given up this year? Has anything new or unusual occurred? Famine is not a new thing in India. It has become almost chronic in the country. Was the Simla exodus ever before given up in famine?

The Simla exodus is not in itself bad. What argument can you possibly have against it? Who can prevent the Sovereign or her representative from residing in the best and most pleasant of all places in the country? The Simla exodus is no doubt costly. But can Royal pomp and dignity be maintained without expense? Indra dwells in *Swarga* and Mahadev on Mount Kailas. Is it very strange that the Viceroy, the virtual King of India, will pass the hot summer days in Simla? If you object to the hill exodus on the ground of expense, why not object to many other things on the same ground? Why the huge Writers' Buildings and not a number of huts? Why chairs and tables and not mats? Why steel pens and not reed pens? Why, again, a palatial building for a post-office, and why is that building lighted up with gas and not with the homely *chirag*? You object to the Viceroy's Simla exodus. Why not object to his princely pay and to the equally princely salaries of the European officials? Will not a reduction of their salaries benefit the public very much more than the stopping of the Simla exodus?

The *Statesman* is raving and foaming at the mouth and shedding tears of sympathy with the famine-stricken people in India. If its sympathy is genuine, why does it not advocate the stopping of the exportation of food-grains from the country, which is the surest antidote against chronic famine and perpetual poverty? Why has it not a word to say against the importation of articles of luxury into this poor country? The Viceroy's Simla exodus moves the *Statesman* to tears. But the evils of food exportation and the evils of luxury importation move him not. Why so? A friend suggests that the *Statesman's* writing against the Simla exodus proceeds from jealousy, pure and simple. The average Anglo-Indian cannot bear that the officials will take shelter in the cool retreat of the hills, while he is left boiling in the heat of the plains. The happiness of the officials excites his jealousy, and he cries, in season and out of season, against the hill exodus. The *Statesman* is already firing at it in right earnest. Let its enthusiasm reach the climax, let it reach the boiling point. What we fear is that the vernacular papers,

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 6th, 1897.

taking it for their guide, may sow broadcast the seeds of discontent and disaffection.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 6th, 1897.

36. Referring to Mr. Risley's reply to the Editor's letter regarding plague inspection at Khana Junction, the same paper observes that it is written in a courteous and kindly tone. It is hopeful, and it now remains to see what steps the kind and considerate Government takes to remove the grievances of the people. It is expected that the Government will take effectual measures to prevent Inspecting Officers from treating passengers with anything but courtesy and consideration. The Government should not be misled by the opinions of interested busy-bodies, or of sycophants who may be found by the score among the writer's countrymen. The Government, it is well known, is always prepared to redress the people's grievances if they are properly represented. The errors which are committed by the Government are often due to its failing to rightly understand the people and rightly interpret their feelings. It is often misled by conflict of opinions among the Indians themselves. The people, too, do not always understand the Government, and often fail to rightly interpret its motives. This is the reason why the Native Press sometimes happens to uncharitably criticise the Government's policy and find fault with its conduct. If there be a mutual understanding between the rulers and the ruled, if the people boldly represent their views to the Government and the Government kindly explains its policy and principles to the people, the administration of the country will be made easier, and everything will go on smoothly.

DACCA PRakash,
Mar. 7th, 1897.

37. In the opinion of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 7th March the plague and other epidemics in this country are due to the violation of *sastric* rules and, in a special measure, to the introduction of machinery, rail-roads and

telegraphs. The ozone produced by metallic friction poisons the atmosphere, and calls epidemics into existence. This theory receives further support from the fact that cholera and other epidemics were not in existence in this country before the advent of the English. In this present plague, scared scientists are making corn, rats and dirt responsible for the breaking out of the epidemic. They ought also to make mills and factories, railways and telegraphs responsible for it. The European theory of the plague is visionary, and the European nostrums useless. Money is being wasted on the removal of dirt, corn is being burnt, children are being snatched away from the breast of their mothers. The plague notifications have created new sources of oppression. The chastity of women may be in danger when these notifications will be carried into effect. The oppressive officers, however, will escape under the excuse of "good faith" and "honest intention." Is it right to depend upon vague and visionary nostrums, when they are likely to prove oppressive to the people? It is the poor, the ill-fed, that are naturally most affected by epidemics. Is it, therefore, right to trace the origin of the epidemics to the food of the poor? By some supernatural power, epidemic breaks out in the most crowded places as a check upon excessive increase of population. Those that are fated to die must die, but no epidemic can harm those, regarding whom it is God's intention that they shall live. An epidemic dies out of its own accord after it has done its work. It is a pity that all these do not teach the Government a lesson, and prevent it from passing hasty and oppressive measures, upon the authority of faddists and visionary scientists.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHAN,
Mar. 7th, 1897.

38. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 7th March observes that the Governor-General should this year delay his exodus to Simla. The Lieutenant-Governor will go to Darjeeling in May, and the Viceroy can wait up to that time. If Lord Elgin can make at least this small sacrifice, he will prove his sympathy with the Indian people, and if he can postpone his exodus for this year, he will earn the gratitude of millions of people. At any rate, if the Viceroy's Simla exodus is to be, there should not be the usually large exodus of public offices.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 9th, 1897.

Plague inspection at Khana Junction.

39. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 9th March observes that the authorities should take steps to redress the grievances of the people in connection with plague inspection at Khana Junction. First and second

class passengers are examined in their compartments. Why should it be then at all difficult to examine female passengers in their compartments? It will not also be difficult to distinguish *purdanishin* from non-*purdanishin* women. The *Englishman* says that the Lieutenant-Governor was one day himself present at the station to see how things stood there, and His Honour found no one complaining of inconvenience. There is nothing to wonder at in this. When the Prince of Wales paid a visit to Calcutta he found it, thanks to the Police Commissioner, beggarless. The Lieutenant-Governor should not labour under the impression that no inconvenience is caused to passengers during the inspection. It is alleged that the first-class European passengers treat the Inspectors uncivilly.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

40. The *Hitavadi* of the 5th March refers to the refusal of the Governor of Madras to admit the Hon'ble Virraghab Cheria's

The interpellation about the Ilia Raja in the Madras Council.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

interpellation on the subject of the insult offered to the Ilia Raja of Travancore by a Military Officer,

on the ground of its not being a matter of public interest, and remarks that it does not know what idea the Governor has of a question of public interest, but can only say that the public feel strongly for the Maharaja and expect a redress of the wrong that has been done to him.

41. Referring to the draft Religious Endowments Bill prepared by the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu, the *Bangavasi* of the

The draft Religious Endowments Bill.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 6th, 1897.

6th March observes that Mr. Charlu is a sagacious, and farsighted man, and does not act hastily or in-

judiciously. It may also be expected that the Governor-General will not allow the contentious Bill to be brought forward in the Council at such an evil time.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

42. The *Bangavasi* of the 6th March will be glad to see Maulvi Abdul

The Prime Ministership of Bhopal.

BANGAVASI.

Jubbar appointed Prime Minister of Bhopal. The Maulvi is a pious and orthodox Musalman. He is honest, straightforward and spirited. He is a man

of varied experience and great foresight. He is, moreover, a Bengali and a Bengali of the old school. The writer will be glad to see another Bengali like him among the Hindus and the Musalmans of Bengal.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

43. The *Barisal Hitaishi* of the 26th February says that though the

Starvation and death in the Khulna district.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
Feb. 26th, 1897.

Lieutenant-Governor has spared no pains in making arrangements for mitigating the sufferings of the people under his charge, His Honour's relief

measures are not averting starvation and death in all cases, owing to the apathy of the district authorities or their want of a sense of duty. Starvation and death, for instance, took place in the Khulna district owing, it is said, to neglect of duty by the District Magistrate. The Lieutenant-Governor has had that Magistrate transferred, but people in parts of that district are still getting meals only at intervals of two or even three days.

44. The *Charu Mihir* of the 1st March says that on receiving a

The Magistrate of Mymensingh in the distress.

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 1st, 1897.

petition from some village people last week asking for relief of distress, the Magistrate of Mymensingh ordered a copy of the petition to be sent to the

Raja, and asked the village panchayat to report at once if the sufferers were willing to take up earth-work if it was given them. Copies of the memorials which were submitted by the residents of Paithal, Golabari, Dimantek, Haoakhali, Nauk, Gobri, Kandi, Barai, Jaydharkhali, Dubail, Bhattachari, Pukhuria, and some *churs* in Jamalpur were also sent to their respective zamindars. But this is not the time when Government can remain idle in the matter of famine relief, after forwarding such memorials to the zamindars and asking panchayats to submit reports. Enquiry should be made whether distress actually prevails or not, and if there is distress, relief should be promptly given. On the 28th February last, 123 residents of the villages, within the jurisdiction of the Gopalpur thana, submitted a petition to the Magistrate. Among the petitioners are

Manmohini Dasi, Uma Sundari Dasi, Barada Sundari Dasi, Swarnamayi Dasi, and Bhanu Bibi of Gola Bari, women, who would not have signed the petition, if they had not been in actual distress. The extent of the distress in these villages should be at once enquired into.

Within the last three or four days the price of coarse rice has risen to Rs. 4-8 a maund in Mymensingh, and it is feared that it will go up still higher. Famine will certainly break out if there be no sufficient rain this year, too. There is scarcity already in the district, although the Magistrate does not believe it. The non-official members of the Famine Relief Committee should try to disabuse him.

PRATIKAR,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

Distress in the Murshidabad district. Murshidabad district, people's sufferings there are fast becoming unbearable. Poor raiyats are under-

going no end of hardships in coming long distances to take *takari* loans. The Relief Committee should open relief measures where needed, instead of sitting idle.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

45. The *Pratikar* of the 5th March says that though the authorities do not believe in the existence of distress in the

Reports of food and water scarcity. *Rajapur, Subdivision Sirajganj, district Pabna.*—The villagers are suffering from scarcity of food and water, as well as malaria. Theft and dacoity are rife. Cooked rice is being stolen.

Belpukhur, district Nadia.—Severe distress. An appeal to the District Magistrate has borne no fruit. Without prompt relief many will die.

Taragunia, thana Baduria, district 24-Parganas.—Great scarcity of water. There will be absolutely no water left in the tanks in Chaitra. The Lieutenant-Governor is requested to take steps to remove the water scarcity.

SANSODHINI,
Mar. 5th, 1897.

Scarcity in the Chittagong district. 47. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 5th March complains that

Scarcity prevails in Kanchannagar, a village in the Chittagong district. Coarse rice is selling at seven seers per rupee. Rice is not available. There being no facility of communication by land or water, rice cannot be easily imported. There was a good crop of rice in the neighbouring hill districts, but the authorities have stopped exportation of rice from these places. The Government is going to open relief works, but no steps have yet been taken to relieve the distress of the starving middle classes. One Thanda Miah Chaudhuri of Kanchannagar has almost exhausted his stock of corn by lending out of it to starving middle class people and selling from it at a reasonable price. There is no more corn in the village.

Another correspondent of the same paper complains that great distress prevails in Ajampur, another village in the same district. People are actually starving, most of them living on one meal a day or on one meal in two or three days. Rice is selling at five seers per rupee. Poor middle class people, widows and other helpless people are in severe distress. The places which are most suffering from scarcity are Ajampur, Sahebpur and a few other villages. Labourers are out of employment, and beggars are getting no alms.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 6th, 1897.

48. The *Sanjivani*'s travelling correspondent writes in that paper of the 6th March that acute distress prevails in the Nadia district. In Santipur the middle classes are in great distress. The lower classes are better off. The state of things is no better in Mayakul, Charbipota, and Dolemaula, three villages in the same district, near Krishnagar. The middle classes are in great distress everywhere. There are a few lepers in Dolemaula who are dragging on a miserable existence with helpless children. Rice is selling in these places at Rs. 4-8 per maund. In Harindanga, the agriculturists who were rather well off have been ruined by many years' scarcity and are selling off their cattle. Acute water scarcity, too, prevails in the village. The raiyats are willing to borrow money from the Government on the security of their lakhiraj lands. In Gacha the correspondent paid a visit to the test relief works. A labourer on these works is paid at the rate of two annas for every thirty-two cubic-feet of earth cut. The labourers were at first allowed to cut daily sixty cubic-feet of earth, but they are no longer allowed to cut more than thirty-two cubic-feet. So long

boys were not allowed to work on the relief works. It has now been ordered that no boy under ten years shall be allowed to work, and that a boy-labourer shall be paid half the wages of an adult labourer. This order, however, is not being faithfully carried out. The correspondent saw that many boys of twelve and fourteen were refused work. Many labourers complained that they were not being well treated. Many labourers were refused work and had to return home disappointed. Acute distress also prevails in Bejhpara. The middle and the lower classes are in an equally pitiable condition. There are few among the former who are getting two meals a day. The Ragdis are living on boiled *be* fruit. Many were found eating boiled *arum* and *arhar*. Beggars are not getting alms. A Brahman family was found in distress, rice having run short in that family. Relief works have been opened. But the cutting of earth does not suit all people. The wages on relief works are low.

49. A correspondent of the same paper complains of prevailing scarcity in Samastipur. in Samastipur in the Darbhanga district. It is a regret that no relief works have been opened in this place. Several indigo factories on the other side of the Gandak are distributing rice to the poor, but the people of Samastipur are not allowed to go there. This is bad.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 6th, 1897.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

50. The *Sahachar* of the 3rd March writes as follows:—

Lord Elgin as Viceroy. It can be said, without fear of contradiction, that Lord Elgin is not a man fit to take the high place of an administrator. The utterances of the *Times* newspaper cannot be lightly treated. And even the *Times* and the *Standard*, which have always lent their support to the Indian Viceroys, have declared themselves opponents of the policy which has been followed by Lord Elgin. Neither does the way in which he has hitherto discharged his responsible duties fill any one with high hopes regarding the remainder of his term of office. It is true his appointment in succession to Lord Lansdowne enabled the people of India to breathe, as it were, more freely, and inspired them with the hope that they would be happy under the rule of the late Lord Elgin's worthy son. But has the present Viceroy done anything to fulfil that expectation? Far from it. His Excellency has, on the contrary, done things which have disappointed people's expectations. Lord Dufferin, that statesman of the first rank, never omitted to consult public opinion on any question before the Government. He also invariably consulted the High Court Judges on measures before his Council. But how has Lord Elgin acted? In not one instance has he consulted public opinion or the High Court. His actions, in fact, prove that he is a mere plaything in the hands of the Secretary of State and his own Secretaries. He has not felt ashamed to even declare that he is a mere machine for carrying out the mandates of the Secretary of State. He has not even the independence of spirit which Lord Lansdowne had. It is doubtful if the Home Government acted rightly in sending out such a man to be the ruler of two hundred and fifty millions of human beings.

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 3rd, 1897.

51. The *Vikrampur* of the 4th March has the following:—

The poverty of India as evidenced by the present famine. The astute official class in India, and notably the Civilians, have so long proclaimed with a flourish of trumpets that the Indian's misery has disappeared since the day the English assumed the government of the country. The statement occurs in school-books and in every page of history. And the Indian student has so long repeated it like a parrot all over the land. Not a few natives also, who generally mix with the English officials, have long sung this false note, though without meeting with any sympathetic response from their fellow-countrymen. Nobody in the country is happy, and yet people who mix with Europeans are never tired of expatiating on the country's happiness under English rule. This has been so long simply a mystery. A briefless barister was always giving people to understand that he was tired of his extensive practice. This, however, puzzled his little daughter, who one day asked her mother how it was that she saw nothing of the heaps of money which everybody said papa was making. And like this puzzled child the Indians have

VIKRAMPUR,
Mar. 4th, 1897.

been so long unable to see their country actually enjoying the happiness and comfort which is described in school histories, and spoken of by English officials and their native sycophants.

This idea of the Indian's happiness has now exploded, and not only the people of India, but leading men in England, have now come to see that the condition of the country has deteriorated, instead of improving under English rule. The latter are therefore making an enquiry into the causes of this deterioration, and it is now the duty of the Indians to discuss the subject in all its bearings and help the English public to arrive at a correct conclusion as to India's poverty, and the means whereby it may be removed.

It is a most important and interesting enquiry. How is it that this once exceedingly fertile country is now unable to feed its inhabitants? Under Musalman rule India was the wealthiest country in the world, and attracted large numbers of foreign merchants who came to trade with her. After his conquest of Somnath, Sultan Mahmud is said to have carried away cart-loads of precious stones from India. A few years ago there was an exhibition at Delhi, of the wealth of the Native Princes; but the jewels and precious stones collected there on the occasion was hardly a hundredth part of the wealth of which the country was robbed by Mahmud.

Since the establishment of English rule in the country, the Indians have ceased to be appointed to high posts under Government. A few clerkships and other petty posts, carrying small salaries, are all that is given to them. The two or three European officers in a public office draw salaries which are larger than those of the hundreds of native clerks employed there put together. Almost all the highly-paid appointments being held by Europeans, the greater part of the money that is paid in the shape of salaries goes out of the country. Even a considerable portion of the earnings of the native employés is expended on the purchase of foreign-made articles. Another cause of India's poverty will be found in the policy of repression which is followed by Government towards the people of the country. Nothing causes the rulers greater uneasiness than the thought that natives may someday become their equals. The latter have been therefore completely emasculated, with the result that they are unable to hold their own, not only against the English but also against every other nation of the world. Thanks to free trade, international treaty clauses, and other items of English policy, all nations of the world are free to come to India and trade with her, and Englishmen cannot prevent them from doing so. And the result is that while the weak Indian helplessly looks on, the sweetmeat in his hand is being snatched away by the English, the French, the Chinese, the Japanese, the American, the Italian, the Russian, and the German alike. It is a great mistake on the part of Government to suppose that, for the maintenance of its ascendancy, it is necessary that the people of India should be weakened. It is the latter's conviction that the Sovereign ought to be respected as a father, and that it is as much a sin to go against a weak ruler as it is to attack an old and weak parent. The blunders of British policy in India are almost wholly due to its ignoring this leading trait in the Indian character. English policy is simply mistaken if it thinks that it will, by weakening the Indians, succeed in snatching away the sweetmeat in their hands. The result of its action has been that, owing to their weakness, the Indians are being robbed by everybody and not by the English alone. It is this robbery that has impoverished and weakened India. If this process of impoverishment, and emasculation is allowed to go on unchecked, the English Government will find it necessary to come to the Indian's rescue, not only on the occasion of a famine like the present one, but on every other occasion on which he may be threatened with danger or distress. Another reason why India has become poor is that the English themselves mercilessly drain away her resources and help others to do so. But they forget that if this helpless India is to be kept alive, it is they themselves, and not the others who are fattening themselves at her expense, that will have to pay for her up-keep. How long will the English be able to do so?

The present agitation in England on the subject of India's poverty shows that the English nation, as a whole, do no harm to India, and that it is only the great majority of the Anglo-Indian officials, who fatten on the

resources of this country, that are ruining it. It is these men who suppress the facts about India, and thus prevent leading men in England from learning the true condition of the country.

52. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 4th March says that the Jain meeting, which was held in the house of Rai Badri Das, Bahadur, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, after expressing gratitude to the British Government for its kind and impartial treatment of all sections and communities of its subjects, adopted the following resolutions:—

- (1) That a Jain Association be formed for the purpose of taking steps to commemorate the Jubilee.
- (2) That religious ceremonies be performed in Jain temples on the Jubilee day.
- (3) That houses be illuminated on that occasion as in a festival.
- (4) That alms be given to the poor.
- (5) That a Jain Jubilee Pathsala be established.
- (6) That measures be taken to prevent animals from being killed.
- (7) That on the Jubilee day no animal be allowed to be killed within the British empire.
- (8) That an address of congratulation be submitted to her Most Gracious Majesty.

BHARAT MITRA,
Mar. 4th, 1897.

The Diamond Jubilee and the
Jains of Calcutta.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 13th March 1897.

